

CLAIMS

What we claim as our invention is:

1. A method for using a computer to present price comparison to a prospective buyer for products offered for sale by a plurality of merchants, said merchants stocking said products in stores that said prospective buyer may personally visit to see and/or touch and/or feel said products, said method comprising:
 - collecting information from a plurality of said merchants that comprises data on said products including price
 - storing said data into at least one of a plurality of databases
 - presenting at least one of a plurality of records that shows said comparison to said prospective buyer.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein a search key is used for retrieving the data from said databases.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising checking said store inventory of said merchant to determine the availability of said product.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising reserving at least one of a plurality of said products that can be picked up later at said merchant store.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising accepting a credit card number from said prospective buyer to purchase said product.
6. An apparatus for presenting price comparison to a prospective buyer for products offered for sale by a plurality of merchants, said merchants stocking said products in stores that said prospective buyer may personally visit to see and/or touch and/or feel said products, comprising:
 - at least one of a plurality of storage devices
 - at least one of a plurality of processors connected to said storage devices
 - said storage devices storing
 - information from a plurality of said merchants that comprises data on said products including price
 - a program for controlling said processor
 - said processor operative with said program to present at least one of a plurality of records that shows said comparison to said prospective buyer.
7. The apparatus of claim 6, in which said processor is further operative with said program to use a search key to retrieve said data from said storage devices.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, in which said processor is further operative with said program to check said store inventory of said merchant to determine the availability of said product.
9. The apparatus of claim 6, in which said processor is further operative with said program to reserve at least one of a plurality of said products that can be picked up later at said merchant store.
10. The apparatus of claim 6, in which said processor is further operative with said program to receive a credit card number from said prospective buyer to purchase said product.

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